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Letter dated 5 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the introduction of a moratorium on executions in the Philippines issued on 3 April 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Antonio **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the introduction of a moratorium on executions in the Philippines issued on 3 April 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union considers that the abolition of the death penalty constitutes a significant step to enhance human dignity and progressively develop human rights, and reaffirms its objective to work towards its universal abolition or at least the introduction of a moratorium on executions as a first step towards that aim.

In this sense, the European Union welcomes the decision taken by President Joseph Estrada to declare a moratorium on executions, and expresses its hope that this decision will be extended after the end of the year and might constitute an important step towards the future abolition of death penalty in the Philippines.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.